

## Four Areas of Focus for the United Methodist Church Faculty of Saint Paul School of Theology 2009

At the request of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees, the faculty have developed an inventory of the way their research, courses and writing can contribute to the Four Areas of Focus for the United Methodist Church:

- 1) Developing Principled Christian Leaders for the Church and the World
- 2) New Places for New People and Renewing Existing Congregations
- 3) Engaging in Ministry with the Poor
- 4) Stamping Out Killer Diseases of Poverty by Improving Health Globally

Link to [Four Areas of Ministry Focus](#) on the United Methodist Web Site

### Young-Ho Chun

#### Professor of Systematic Theology

Theology must not be merely speculative but grounded in the real existential experience of life. Christians who believe in the Incarnate Logos should learn to service languages through their languaging practice as well as embodied discourse in-the-world. Such is the basic perspective and approach I take to each course.

1. The “principled Christian leadership”
  - a. Research interests:
    - a) Christian leadership-pastoral and lay-firmly grounded in the *Christian Spirituality* and its ‘habitus’ and expressed in the wholeness of their Christian living.
    - b) Currently engaged in writing of *Christian Ecumenical Dogmatics*, which reflects Christianity’s not only an *ecumenical* (intra-Christian ecclesial) relationships with other denominations but also *ecumenic* (inter-religious) relationship with other religious traditions.
  - b. Courses I teach:
    - a) Theology of Prayer and Christian Spirituality
    - b) Spiritual Exercise-Wesleyan Approach
    - c) Introduction to Systematic Theology
    - d) Theology and the Church’s Ministry
    - e) The Faith of the Church—Doctrinal foci (Atonement, Christology, The Trinity, The Church)
    - f) Christianity in relation to Other World Religions

- c. Writings:
  - a) *Tillich and Religion: Toward a Theology of World Religions* (1998)
  - b) "The Future of Asian-American Worship," in *Worship Matters* (U.M. Discipleship Resources, 1998)
  - c) "Mystical Impulse and the Protestant Principle," in *Mystisches Erbe in Tillichs Philosophischer Theologie* (Muenster-Hamburg-London, Lit Verlag, 2000)
  - d) "The Trinity in Tillich and Its Implication for Inter-religious Dialogue," in *Trinitaet und/oder Quaternitaet-Tillichs neuerschliessung der trinitarischen Problematik* (Muenster, Lit Verlag, 2004): 47-56.
  - e) "Prayer in Korea from a Tillichian Perspective," in *Das Gebet als Grundakt des Glaubens. Tillich-Studien, Beihefte, Band 2* (Muenster: Lit Verlag, 2004): 137-151.
  - f) "The Doctrine of Incarnation according to Tillich and Its Significance," in *Christus Jesus-Mitte der Geschichte!?* (Muenster: Lit Verlag, 2007): 69-79.
  - g) "Hegel in Tillich," in *Die Bruecken der Versoehnung. A Festschrift for Prof. Dr. Gert Hummel on the 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration* (Muenster-London-Hamburg: Lit-Verlag, 2003).
  - h) "Love as Redemptive and Creative Energy: A Christian Perspective," in *Asian Christian Review*, vol. 1 no.1 (Spring, 2007): 103-116.
  - i) "A Theology of Culture: Paul Tillich's Early Conception and Its Significance Today," in *Religion-Kultur-Gesellschaft: Der fruehe Tillich im Spiegel neuer Texte (1919-1920)*. Hg. Christian Danz and Werner Schuessler. Tillich-Studien Band 20 (Wien, 2008): 153-170.
  - j) "The Doctrine of the Trinity in the Reformation Tradition," in *The Cambridge Companion to the Trinity*, ed. By Peter Phan (Forthcoming by Wm. Eerdmans).

## 2. Congregational Development:

- a. N./A. (not directly applicable)
- b. Courses:
  - a) Evil and Human Suffering
  - b) Theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer
  - c) Theology of Prayer and Christian Spirituality
  - d) Immersion courses:
    - (a) Immersion (medical and theological) in Haiti
    - (b) Immersion in Korea and China
    - (c) Immersion in Cambodia and Vietnam

- (d) Immersion in Holy Land and Turkey (projected)
- e) D.Min. Korean Track course: Wesleyan Spirituality and Congregational Renewal”

c. Writings:

- a) “In Other Words on Theodicy”. A book length forthcoming collaborative work with Prof. Dr. Werner Schuessler of Trier University (Germany).
- b) “Prevenient Grace: a foreground for unbounded conversation,” in *United Methodists in Service* (Korean language version) (Nashville, fall, 2001)
- c) “Shared Facilities: Biblical and Theological Perspectives and their Implications for the Sound Intra-ecclesial Relationship,” in *United Methodists in Service* (Korean Language version) United Methodist Communications Office (Nashville, April, 2003).
- d) “What I learned from Haiti,” in *Connection*, Kansas East United Methodist Conference (March, 2004).
- e) “What I witnessed in Haiti—bearable lightness of being in service?!” in *Step Forward*. A Newsletter of the Korean English Language Ministry (Spring, 2004).
- f) A video tape on “Faith” segment of the *Christian Believers* (U.M. Board of Discipleship Production, 2000).
- g) “The Future of Asian-American Worship,” in *Worship Matters*, ed. By Anderson (Nashville: United Methodist Church Discipleship Resources, 1998).

3. Ministry with the Poor:

- a. Research interest:
  - “The theological perspective on the poverty and the postcolonial ecumenical humanism”.
- b. Courses:
  - a) Immersion in Haiti (Medical and theological)
  - b) Immersion in Cambodia and Vietnam
  - c) “Evil and Human Suffering”
  - d) “Christ, Church and Mission”
- c. Writings:

- a) "Christology in Migration: An Asian face of Jesus Christ" (Manuscripts in progress).
- b) "Prayer in Korea from a Tillichian Perspective," in *Das Gebet als Grundakt des Glaubens. Tillich-Studien, Beihefte Bd. 2*, hgs. Von Werner Schuessler and A. James Reimer (Muenster: Lit Verlag, 2004): 137-151.
- c) "Love: Power in Hearing the Other into Being," in *Loving God, Loving Neighbor: Ministry with Searching Youth*. Ed. By Sondra Higgins Mathaei (Xlibris, 2008): chapter 3: 44-59.

4. Issues related to Global Health:

- a. Research interest:  
"Psycho-somatic Connection of Asian Spirituality: Christian Perspective: Its Pastoral Care Implications."
- b. Courses: N./A.
- c. Writings:
  - a) Dasuk: Yong-Mo Yu: A Pioneer in Creative Theological Synthesis in Korea of Confucian, Buddhist and Christian Spiritualities (Manuscripts in editorial process).